

Appl. No. : 10/081,028  
Filed : February 21, 2002

### REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination and the Remarks contained herein are responsive to the Final Office Action mailed April 28, 2004 in the above-identified case. In the Final Office Action the Examiner rejected the pending claims as being obvious in light of the Schweitzer et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,203,659), in view of the Prentakis reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,775,281). By this paper, the Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate limitations which distinguish the art of record and, hence, reconsideration of the above-caption application in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein is now respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Applicant has amended the specification to delete line 21-24 of page 3 to correct an informality noted by the Examiner in the Final Office Action mailed April 28, 2004.

By this paper, the Applicant has amended Claim 1 to indicate that the transport arrangement having the first and second clamping devices is structured such that the first and second clamping devices are positioning the transport arrangement so as to substantially simultaneously remove a new selected chip carrier plate from the magazine while depositing the selected chip carrier plate in the magazine in order to address the substantive rejections raised by the Examiner in the April 28, 2004 Office Action. In this specific embodiment disclosed, the two clamping devices are positioned one on top of the other such that they can simultaneously grasp and release, and therefore remove and deposit, a chip carrier plate at the magazine.

After carefully reviewing the Schweitzer and Prentakis references, there does not appear to be any indication that either of these references either alone or in combination teaches the concept of being able to substantially simultaneously grasp and deposit chip carrier plates at the magazine due, at least in part, to the relative orientation of the clamping devices. It will be appreciated that along with simultaneous grasping and depositing by the two clamping devices, the efficiency and throughput of the transport mechanism can thus be greatly improved. The Applicant therefore submits that Claim 1 as amended is allowable over the art of record.

The Applicant has also amended the remaining independent claims, i.e., Claim 6, 11 and 15, to incorporate limitations of similar scope. Based upon the foregoing, the Applicant believes that Claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 are allowable over the art of record. The Applicant further submits the remaining claims define additional patentable subject matter and are further allowable due to

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their respective dependencies on Claims 1, 6, 11 and 15. The Applicant therefore believes that the above-captioned application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any impediment to the prompt allowance of this application that could be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the number shown below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 12/23/04

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